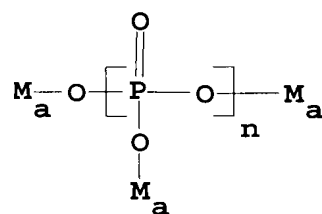


IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion ~~containing~~ comprising pyrogenically produced oxide particles of at least one of titanium, zinc, iron or cerium having an average particle size, expressed as a median value, in the dispersion of less than 200 nm, and an arithmetic mean particle size of at least 131 nm, wherein the particle sizes of the oxide particles are not distributed symmetrically in the dispersion and the dispersion ~~contains~~ comprises as dispersing agent at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I



I

wherein

M= H, an alkali metal, alkaline-earth metal, ammonium ion, Zn^{2+} , Al^{3+} , Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} ,

a= 1 or if M is a divalent cation, a = 1/2, if M is a trivalent cation, a = 1/3

with M being identical or different, and wherein said aqueous dispersion has a pH value of 4.5 to 7.5.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the ~~metal~~ oxide particles ~~include~~ comprise the oxides of titanium, zinc, iron, cerium, mixed oxides thereof, ~~and~~ or the mixed oxides of the above-mentioned oxides with aluminium or silicon.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the surface of the ~~metal~~ oxide particles is modified by ~~means of an~~ organic ~~compounds~~ compound.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion ~~contains~~ comprises 20 to 60 wt. %, ~~metal~~ oxide particles.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion ~~contains~~ comprises 0.2 to 30 wt. % of (poly)phosphates corresponding to the general formula I.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion ~~contains~~ comprises other auxiliary substances ~~and or~~ additives.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein within the pH range of 4.5 to 7.5 said aqueous dispersion exhibits a zeta potential of less than -20 mV.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion has a viscosity of less than 2000 mPas at a shear rate of 100 s⁻¹.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): Process for preparing the dispersion according to claim 1, wherein a stream of an initial dispersion, which contains pyrogenically produced metal oxide particles, in each case at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I, water and optionally additional auxiliary substances, is divided into at least two substreams,

these substreams are placed in a high-energy mill under a pressure of at least 500 bar and are released through a nozzle and impact upon one another in a gas- or liquid-filled reaction chamber and are ground.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): Process according to claim 9, wherein the dispersion is ground several times by means of a high-energy mill.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method for preparing a cosmetic formulation comprising adding an aqueous dispersion according to claim 1 to said cosmetic formulation.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion ~~contains~~ comprises 30 to 50 wt. % metal oxide particles.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion ~~contains~~ comprises 0.5 to 15 wt. % of (poly)phosphates corresponding to the general formula I.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): Process for preparing the dispersion according to claim 1, wherein a stream of an initial dispersion, which contains pyrogenically produced metal oxide particles, in each case at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I, water and optionally additional auxiliary substances, is divided into at least two substreams, these substreams are placed in a high-energy mill under a pressure of 500 to 1500 bar and are released through a nozzle and impact upon one another in a gas- or liquid-filled reaction chamber and are ground.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): Process for preparing the dispersion according to claim 1, wherein a stream of an initial dispersion, which contains pyrogenically produced metal oxide particles, in each case at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I, water and optionally additional auxiliary substances, is divided into at least two substreams, these substreams are placed in a high-energy mill under a pressure of 2000 to 3000 bar and are released through a nozzle and impact upon one another in a gas- or liquid-filled reaction chamber and are ground.

Claim 16 (New): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the oxide particles are of at least titanium.

Claim 17 (New): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the oxide particles are of at least zinc.

Claim 18 (New): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the oxide particles are of at least iron.

Claim 19 (New): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the oxide particles are of at least cerium.